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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

*and to directing
our overseas efforts;*

Honorable Gordon Gray
Director
Office of Defense Mobilization
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gray:

I have been reviewing in the Agency the last Alert exercise with a view to coming up with some recommendations as to the practical steps we could take in CIA to prepare for our proper functioning in an emergency.

The responsibilities of the Agency in the domestic field are limited to maintaining efficient functioning of the Headquarters and the collection domestically of intelligence that may be available here. Our main objective, in case of a nuclear attack, would be (1) to obtain prior warning of the initial attack, and of succeeding attacks; (2) to maintain proper communications with our overseas stations and assets with a view to prompt reporting on all foreign developments within the scope of our duties, and (3) to maintain proper means of communication with those branches of Government which might have to act upon the information we received or give us guidance in the operations to be carried out abroad.

The security of overseas communications, therefore, becomes a primary problem. This is not only true for CIA but also for State and Defense. ~~The Killian Report~~ of 14 February 1955, made certain recommendations on the security of international communications. Although many of these recommendations have been put into effect, there is still a danger that we might be out of contact for a considerable time with important areas overseas and they with us, and hence without vital information as to the effects of any possible nuclear attack on foreign allied or friendly countries or the progress of any hostilities abroad. I feel that the vulnerability of ~~our~~ *US* overseas communications is a matter that should receive more consideration. Accordingly, I propose to test out CIA's communications with this in mind at the next Alert exercise. You may wish to consider having the overseas communications of State and Defense similarly tested.

Sincerely,

*The Technological
Capabilities Panel,*

in its report
Allen W. Dulles
Director

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